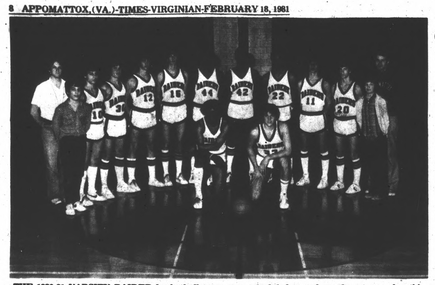


THE 1980-81 VARSITY RAIDER basketball team was scheduled to end regular-season play this Tuesday. Team members shown above are (standing, from left) Coach Robert Hudson, manager Jeff Williams, Jody Williams, Richard Guill, Ron Carter, John Simmons, Norman Turner, Jeff Miller, Kevin Ferguson, Jimmy Gilliam, Rick Caldwell, Manager Chris Dickerson, Coach Coty Dickerson (kneeling) Co-captains Marvin Johnson and Shane Abernathy. (Photo by Allen Austin).

Tournament set

As of press time Tuesday, the dates and sites for this year's version of the Seminole District basketball tournament had been set, but it was uncertain as to what teams the Raiders and Raiderettes would play in the opening rounds of the tournament.

The Raiders are likely to face off against either Gretna or William Campbell in the first round of the boys' tournament, which will be held Feb. 24 at E.C. Glass High School in Lynchburg.

The second round of the boys' tournament will be held Thursday, Feb. 24. The finals will be held the night of Feb. 28, at 8:30 p.m.

The first round of the girls' tournament will be held this Friday at Rustburg High School. The semifinals will be held Feb. 26 at E.C. Glass High School, and the finals will be held Feb. 28 at E. C. Glass, starting at 7 p.m.

The winner in the boys' competition will go on to the Region III tournament.

Girls drop Buckingham

The Appomatox varsity Raiderettes lost a hard-fought game to a tough Liberty team Tuesday, then won handily against Buckingham Friday night in basketball action last week.

Tuesday's game against Liberty got off to a slow start, with the Raiderettes holding a 5-2 lead as the first quarter ended. Liberty rallied for 12 points in the second quarter, and the first half ended with Liberty ahead, 14-11.

In the third quarter, Liberty again played at a consistent pace, scoring 14 points to the Raiderettes' 11. The local team pulled to within two points of Liberty several times during the final period of play, but each time Liberty would fight back to regain control of the game. Both teams scored 16 points in the final period of play, and the score stood at 44-38, favor of Liberty, as the buzzer sounded ending the game.

Coach Mary Tolley commended her team for an "excellent defensive effort" as the shorter Raiderette team "did an excellent job of keeping the taller Liberty girls out of the middle, and cut off their fast break with speed and quickness."

The coach said her team's offensive efforts were "not very good," however. "In fact," the coach added, "it was one of our worst games overall. We just didn't move the ball or penetrate on offense," Tolley said.

Raiderette Ruby Smith again led all scorers with 26 points for the night, followed by Liberty's Junel Leftwich with 20 points, Pam Jackson with 12 points, and Vickie Zimmerman with 10.

Robin Martin scored six points for the Raiderettes, Lolita Preston scored four, and Karen Johnson scored two points against Liberty.

The Raiderettes gathered in 18 rebounds to Liberty's 23. Ruby Smith had four steals, Susan Handy had three rebounds, Rhonda Jaggars had five rebounds and three assists, Robin Martin had seven rebounds, Lolita Preston had five steals and one assist, and Karen Johnson had one steal, one rebound, and "played a key game off the bench" against Liberty, according to Tolley.

The Raiderettes had an easier time of it Friday night against Buckingham, in a game which was played closely in the first half, but which saw the Raiderettes open a wide lead in the third quarter.

The Raiderettes scored ten points in the first quarter while holding Buckingham to one, then scored 14 in the second quarter to Buckingham's ten.

Then the Raiderettes stormed for 22 points in the third quarter, while holding Buckingham to four points. Ruby Smith scored 12 of her 23 points in the third quarter, Susan Handy scored six points, and Lolita Preston scored four for the Raiderettes.

In the final period of play, the Raiderettes again outscored Buckingham, totaling 18 points to Buckingham's 15, and the game ended with the score 64-36, Appomattox.

For the Raiderettes, Smith had six rebounds, one steal, one assist and 23 points; Handy had two rebounds,three assists, and 12 points; Lolita Preston had two rebounds, three steals, three assists, and ten points; Robin Martin had seven rebounds, three assists, and eight points; Rhonda Jaggers had eight rebounds, two assists, and four points; Karen Johnson had six rebounds, one assist, and two points; Angie Richardson had two rebounds and three points; Angie Murray had one rebound and two assists; Judith Watkins had three rebounds; Kim McGrath had one rebound.

All team members played in the game, which saw free substituting in the final period.

The Raiderettes, tied for second place in the Seminole District with a 12-5 record, will travel to the Seminole District tournament in Rustburg, which begins this Friday (Feb. 20). At press time, it had not been determined at what time the Raiderettes would play their first game.

The girls were scheduled to play Rustburg Tuesday night at home, after the Times-Virginian deadline.

Over Liberty, 86-55

Raiders win big

The Appomattox varsity Raider basketball team lost a close contest to Buckingham Friday night, after an 86-55 win over Liberty at home last Tuesday.

Shane Abernathy had 22 points and 22 rebounds against Buckingham Friday, to lead the Raiders in a close game which Appomattox lost, 63-59.

Buckingham opened a six-point lead in the first quarter, which ended with the score 21-15, Buckingham. In the second quarter, the Raiders came back strong and closed the gap, and the score stood at 29-31, favor of Buckingham, as the first half ended.

The local team closed the gap even further in the third quarter, scoring 14 points to Buckingham's 13. In the final period, however, Buckingham held off the Raiders' come-from-behind efforts, and scored 19 points while holding Appomattox to ice the game, 63-59.

Buckingham's James Holman led scorers in the game, with 23 points, followed by Abernathy with 22, the Raiders' Kevin Ferguson with 21, and Buckingham's Wayne Eldridge and Mark Lee, who scored 13 and 12 points, respectively.

Other players recording points for the Raiders were Marvin Johnson and Ron Carter, who scored five points each, and Jeff Miller, Rick Caldwell, and Jody Williams, who scored two points each.

Other players scoring for Buckingham included Russ Gowin with ten points, and Earl Eldridge, with five points.

The Raiders hit 24 field goals and went 11 for 16 from the foul line for a 68 percent freethrow performance. Buckingham hit 28 field goals and went seven for 15 from the foul line for a 46 percent freethrow average.

Coach Coty Dickerson commended Abernathy for his 22 points and 22 rebounds, and Kevin Ferguson for his 21 points and eight rebounds.

Against Liberty last Tuesday, the Raiders had four players scoring in double figures, including Abernathy with 25 points, Ferguson with 21, Marvin Johnson with 12, and Rick Caldwell with 11 points.

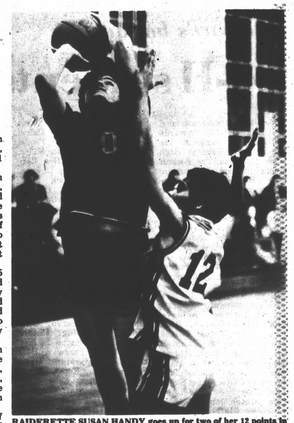
The Raiders jumped into an early lead in the first quarter, which ended with the local team ahead, 20-12. In the second quarter, the Raiders continued their domination of the game, scoring 20 points to Liberty's 11, and the score at the end of the first half stood at 40-23, favor of Appomattox.

The Raiders exploded for 25 more points in the third quarter, while holding Liberty to 15 points. In the final period of play, the Raiders garnered 21 more points, held Liberty to 17 points, and won the game by 31 points, 86-55.

With the Raiders scoring in double figures for the game were Jeff Miller with six points, Ron Carter with five points, Norman Turner with three points, and Jody Williams with three.

Shane Abernathy pulled in 17 rebounds for the Raiders, and the team hit 32 field goals and went 22 for 29 from the foul line for a 75 percent freethrow performance.

The Raiders were scheduled to complete their regular season Tuesday night at home against Rustburg, after the Times-Virginian deadline. The Raiders have clinched a spot in the Seminole District tournament, to be held starting Feb. 24 at E. C. Glass High School in Lynchburg. As of press time, however, the team with which the Raiders would be paired in the opening round of the tourney had yet to be determined.



RAIDERETTE SUSAN HANDY goes up for two of her 12 points in Friday night's victory against Buckingham. The Raiderettes defeated Buckingham 64-36, following a loss Tuesday to Liberty. (Photo by Allen Austin)

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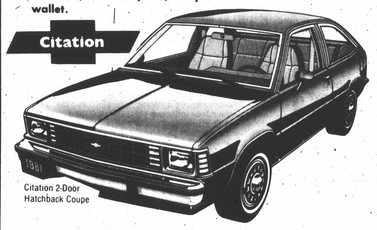

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